

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (New) A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:

- a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;
- a card transferring mechanism that takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot; and

- a detector that detects a first condition wherein the magnetic card is inserted from the card slot, the detector further operable to detect, after the first condition is detected, a second condition wherein the output of the detector is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered, wherein after the detector detects the second condition, the card transferring mechanism is driven to take in the magnetic card.

22. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the detector is a magnetic head.

23. (New) A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:

- a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;
- a card transferring mechanism that takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot;

- a shutter which opens or closes a card guiding path guiding the magnetic card inserted from the card slot to the card transferring mechanism;

- a detector that detects that the magnetic card comes in contact with the shutter; and

- a shutter controller which opens the card guiding path by driving the shutter after the detector detects that the magnetic card comes in contact with the shutter.

24. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus

according to claim 23 wherein the detector is a magnetic head.

25. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a drive control circuit that includes the shutter controller, wherein after the detector detects that the magnetic card comes in contact with the shutter, the drive control circuit opens the shutter and drives the card transferring mechanism to take in the magnetic card.

26. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 25, wherein after the detector detects that the magnetic card comes in contact with the shutter, the drive control circuit opens the shutter, waits a predetermined time period, and then activates the card transferring mechanism to take in the magnetic card.

27. (New) A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:

- a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;
- a card transferring mechanism that takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot;
- a guiding path that guides the magnetic card inserted from the card slot to the card transferring mechanism;
- a detector that detects that the magnetic card arrives at the card transferring mechanism; and
- a drive control circuit that drives the card transferring mechanism to transfer the magnetic card into the guiding path after the detector detects that the magnetic card arrives at the card transferring mechanism.

28. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the detector is a magnetic head.

29. (New) A magnetic card transaction apparatus for preventing an unauthorized reading of a magnetic card, comprising:

a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;
a card transferring mechanism that, when activated, takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot;
a detector that detects a first condition wherein the magnetic card comes in contact with the card transferring mechanism or in contact with a shutter disposed between the card slot and the card transferring mechanism so as to stop;
and

a drive control circuit operable to open the shutter or activate the card transferring mechanism when the detector detects the second condition.

30. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein the detector is a magnetic head and the first condition is detected when the output of the magnetic head is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered.

31. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein when the detector detects the first condition, the drive control circuit opens the shutter.

32. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein when the detector detects the first condition, the drive control circuit activates the card transferring mechanism.

33. (New) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein when the detector detects the first condition, the drive control circuit opens the

shutter, waits for a predetermined time period and then activates the card transferring mechanism.